

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198986

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS - TEXT OF GOP
DEMARCHE

REF: 197398

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PHILIPPINE EMBASSY NOTE ON MILI-
TARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS GIVEN TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OAKLEY BY AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ AUGUST 17:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES PRESENTS ITS COM-
PLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND, PURSUANT TO IN-
STRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, HAS
THE HONOR TO REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW
MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 198986

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IT IS RECALLED THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN MANILA
ON 7 DECEMBER 1975 BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS AND
PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD CALLED FOR "NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
SUBJECT OF UNITED STATES USE OF PHILIPPINE MILITARY BASES
(WHICH) SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE CLEAR RECOGNITION OF

PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY." TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, NEGOTIATIONS WERE OPENED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON 12 APRIL 1976 BY THE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SECRETARY CARLOS P. ROMULO AND THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER. THEREAFTER, DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD IN JUNE 1976 IN BAGUIO CITY AND FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 1976 IN MANILA BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE PANEL HEADED BY THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES PANEL HEADED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES. THE NEGOTIATIONS, AMONG OTHERS, BETWEEN THE TWO PANELS IDENTIFIED TWENTY-FIVE (25) UNRESOLVED ISSUES. SUBSEQUENTLY, SECRETARY ROMULO MET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, FIRST IN NEW YORK ON 6 OCTOBER 1976, THEN IN WASHINGTON ON 26 OCTOBER AND 23 NOVEMBER 1976, AND FINALLY IN MEXICO CITY ON 26 NOVEMBER 1976, BUT NO AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

IN A MEETING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON 10 FEBRUARY 1977 BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, ON ONE HAND, AND THE U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, ON THE OTHER, THE LATTER STATED THAT THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS ACTIVELY AND INTENSIVELY REVIEWING THE WHOLE RANGE OF RP-US RELATIONS AND WAS DESIROUS TO SETTLE THE BASES QUESTION AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 198986

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, SHARING THE SAME DESIRE TO SETTLE THE MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IS THEREFORE REQUESTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY FOR A NEW MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE. VANCE

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